ous policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programmes, preparation of National perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects.

Vamsadhra Irrigation Project

1078. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission is considering a proposal from Andhra Pradesh for the Vamsadhara Stage-II, Phase-I Irrigation Project;

(b) whether any additional information has been sought from the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in giving techno-economic clearance for this Irrigation Project by C.W.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Outcome of Indo-Pak Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project

1079. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the talks held recently between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation Project; and

(b) whether differences between the two countries on this issue have been narrowed down, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b). During discussions held on 5.11.1998 between India and Pakistan on Tulbal Navigation Project as part of the composite dialogue process, both sides exchanged views and took - note of the previous discussions from October 1987 to August 1992 on technical and legal aspects related to the project. India drew Pakistan's attention to the understandings reached in 1991 at Secretary level discussions. Pakistan however, denied that any understanding was reached in the past in respect of this project. The Indian side informed Pakistan that the proposed project was designed to regulate the flow of waters from the Wular Lake for navigational purposes and it did not involve any consumptive use and was fully consistent with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. It was also agreed that discussions on the project would continue during the next round of talks under composite dialogue process.

Search for Lost Saraswati River

1080. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to have a project initiated to search for lost Saraswati river in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, how and when Government plan to take up this initiative; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has initiated work for searching the palaeo drainage network in Western Rajasthan also referred to as the lost Saraswati River. The Central-Ground Water Board has been entrusted with this responsibility during 1998-99. The Board